

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT

September 2017



by Dr Elliott Hicks
figures by Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner

Commissioned by Matthew Skilling

NGR: TL 98084 24021 (centre)

Planning reference: 171882

CAT project ref.: 17/09g

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM: 2017.124

CHER ref: ECC4077

OASIS reference: colchest3-295492



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CAT Report 1174

October 2017

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 78 Irvine Road in advance of a ground floor extension. The development site is located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and south of several Roman cemeteries and a Roman temple. No significant archaeological features were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on the 19th September 2017. The work was commissioned by Matthew Skilling, in advance of alterations to the rear of the property including a new ground floor extension, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, formerly the UAD (Urban Archaeological Database)) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. Each dyke consisted of a V-shaped ditch with a simple bank behind, constructed so that the inner face of the ditch continued as the outer face of the bank (Crummy 1997, 14). Moat Farm Dyke (EHER 11627) is located 170m west (CAR 11, 34), with Heath Farm Dyke (EHER 11626) and Prettygate Dyke (EHER 11639) also close-by.

It is also situated to the south of known Roman cemeteries that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road (120m east of the site). It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned to the orientation of this road. Finds recovered in the immediate vicinity include Roman coins, from the rear gardens of 12 and 22 Audley Road (UAD 924 & 932).

A substantial Roman temple complex (Temple 6) was also partly excavated in 1947 (EHER 13128), 440m NNE of the site in the playing fields of the Colchester Royal

Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107).

No significant archaeological features or horizons were identified during recent archaeological investigations at 20 Irvine Road (CAT Report 867), 40 Irvine Road (CAT Report 860), 10 Audley Road (CAT Report 813) or during a small evaluation on the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road) (CAT Report 180).

An anti-tank ditch and defence line dating to World War II is also located approximately 160m SW (EHER 16486).

4 **Results** (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 19.33m of foundation trenches were dug under archaeological supervision to the rear of the house. The trenches measured 0.45m wide by 1.1m deep.

The foundation trench was excavated through three layers. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.25-0.3m thick, dark yellow/brown sandy-silt with frequent stone piece inclusions) sealed a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.4m thick, medium yellow/brown sandy-silty-clay with frequent stone piece inclusions). Natural sands and gravels (L3, medium orange/brown sand with frequent gravel piece inclusions) were encountered at a depth of c 0.65-0.7m below current ground level.



Photograph 1 Site shot

No significant archaeological features were identified.

5 **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered.

6 **Discussion**

Despite being located within a site of considerable archaeological interest, there were no significant archaeological remains.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Matthew Skilling for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by N Rayner. Figures were prepared by C Lister and S Carter. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT</i>
CAT Report 180	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation on Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2002)</i>
CAT Report 813	2015	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2015</i>
CAT Report 860	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording: 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, August 2015</i>
CAT Report 867	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording: 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0TR, July 2015</i>
CBCPS	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, CO3 3TT</i> , by J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1174)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM: 2017.124

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Distribution list

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Essex Historic Environment Record



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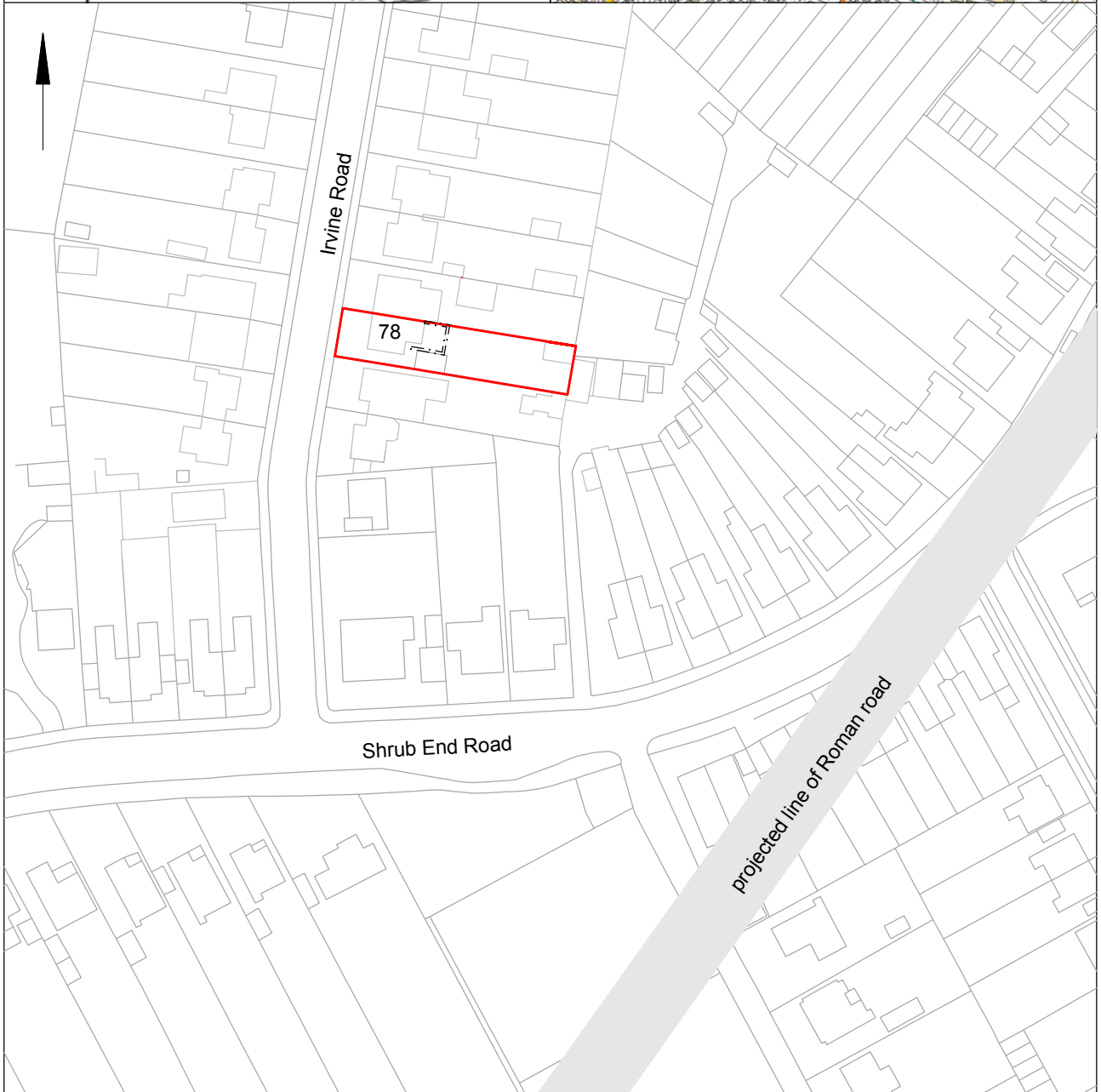
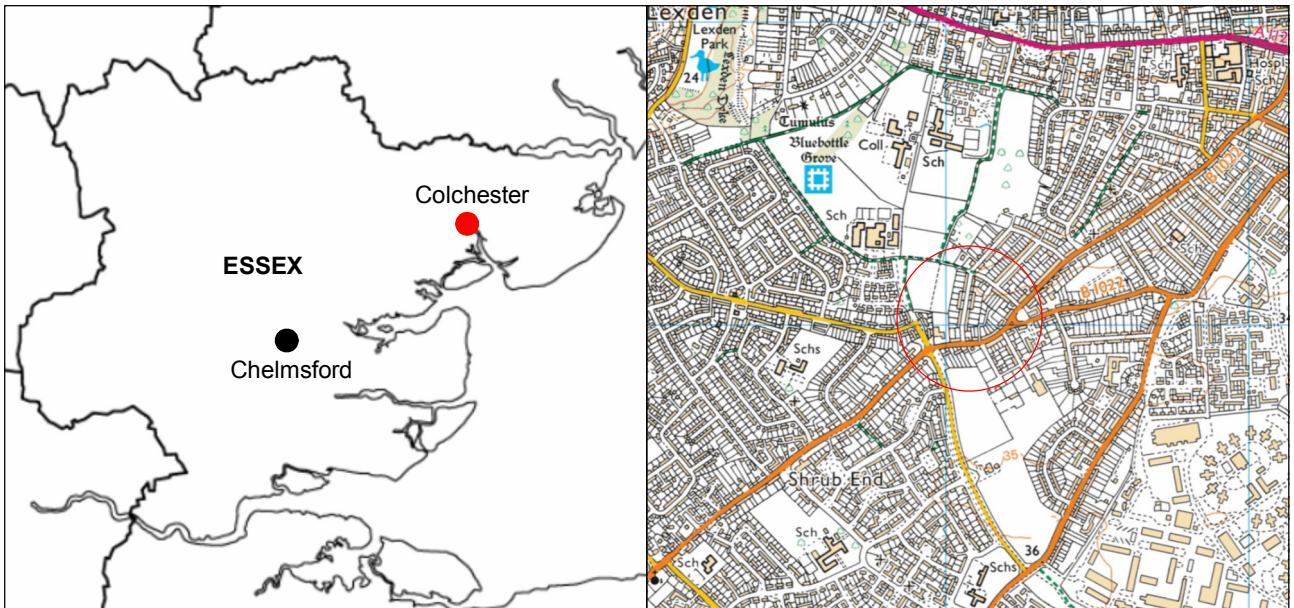
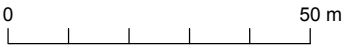


Fig 1 Site location.

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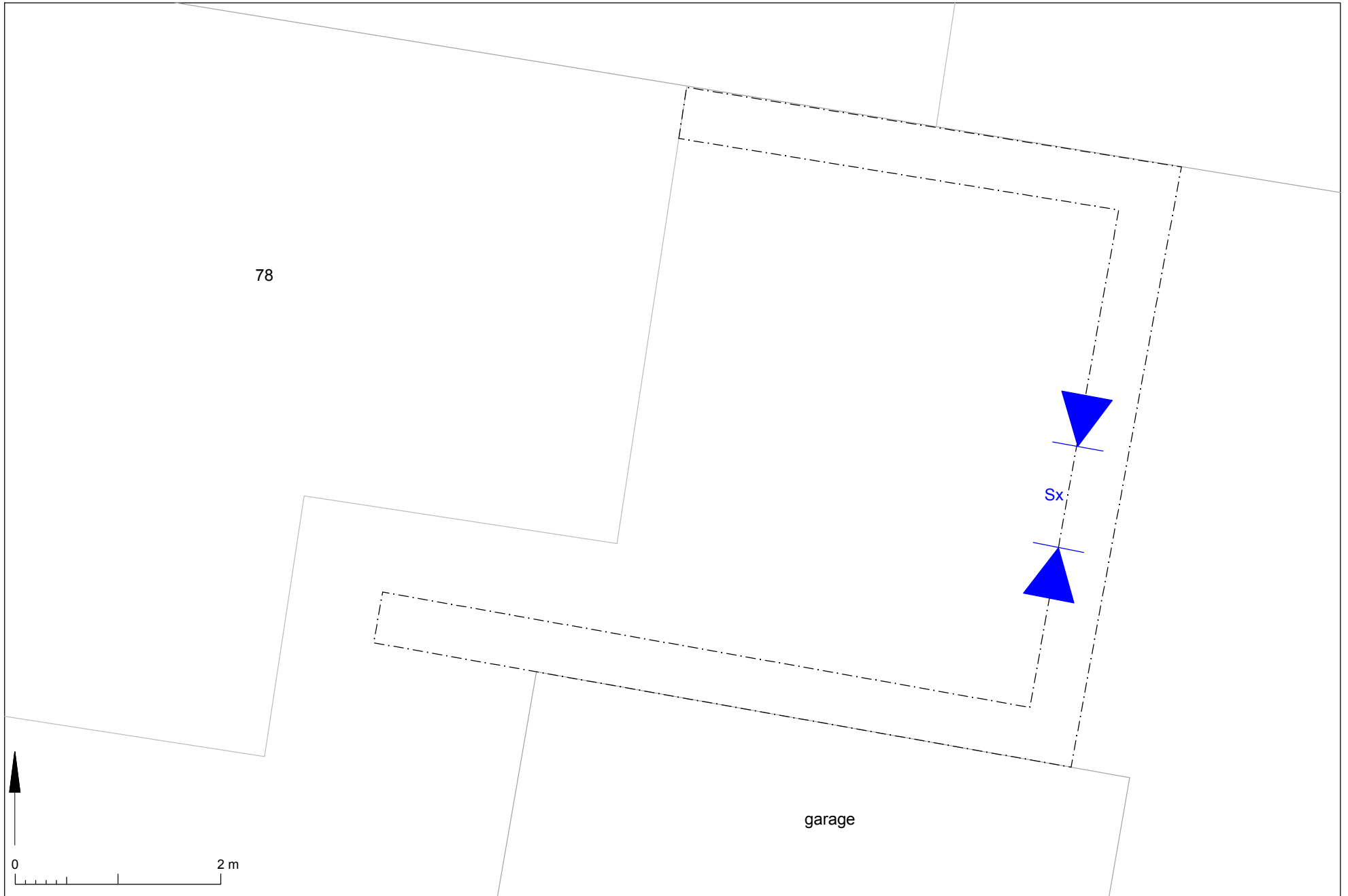
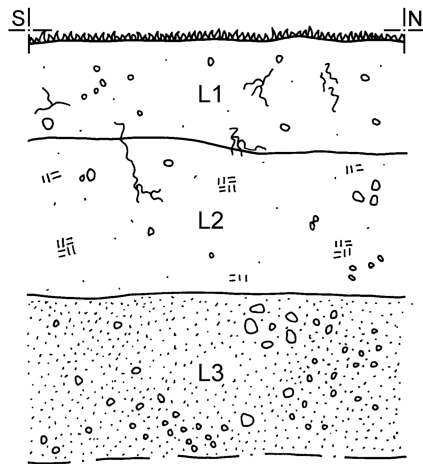


Fig 2 Results



- sand
- small stones
- large stones
- √ roots
- ||| clay



Fig 3 Representative section

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98084 24021 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/09g CHER ref: ECC4077 OASIS ref: colchest3-295492
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 19th September 2017	Size of area investigated: 0.04 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.124	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: EHER 11626, 11627, 11639, 13128, 16486
Final report: CAT Report 1174	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 78 Irvine Road in advance of alterations to the rear of the property including a new ground floor extension. The development site is located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and south of several Roman cemeteries and a Roman temple. No significant archaeological features were uncovered.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: October 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT

NGR: TL 98084 24021 (centre)

Planning references: 171882

Client: Matthew Skilling

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

CHER number: [tbc](#)

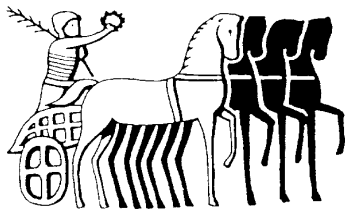
CAT project code: 17/09g

OASIS project number: colchest3-295492

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 12.9.2017



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2.1km southwest of Colchester Town Centre at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, close to the junction with Shrub End Road (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 98084 24021.

Proposed work

The development comprises alterations to the rear of the property including a new ground floor extension.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, formerly the UAD (Urban Archaeological Database)) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. Each dyke consisted of a V-shaped ditch with a simple bank behind, constructed so that the inner face of the ditch continued as the outer face of the bank (Crummy 1997, 14). Moat Farm Dyke (EHER 11627) is located 170m west (CAR 11, 34), with Heath Farm Dyke (EHER 11626) and Prettygate Dyke (EHER 11639) also close-by.

It is also situated to the south of known Roman cemeteries that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road (120m east of the site). It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned to the orientation of this road. Finds recovered in the immediate vicinity include Roman coins, from the rear gardens of 12 and 22 Audley Road (UAD 924 & 932).

A substantial Roman temple complex (Temple 6) was also partly excavated in 1947 (EHER 13128), 440m NNE of the site in the playing fields of the Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107).

No significant archaeological features or horizons were identified during recent archaeological investigations at 20 Irvine Road (CAT Report 867), 40 Irvine Road (CAT Report 860), 10 Audley Road (CAT Report 813) or during a small evaluation on the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road) (CAT Report 180).

An anti-tank ditch and defence line dating to World War II is also located approximately 160m SW (EHER 16486).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in July 2017 (application No.171882) proposing a new ground floor extension.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2017).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2017).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Site surveying

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, D | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
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| CAT Report 867 | 2015 | <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording: 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0TR, July 2015</i> |
| CBCPS | 2016 | <i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, CO3 3TT</i> , by J Tipper |
| CifA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> |
| CifA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Crummy, P | 1997 | <i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i> |
| DCLG | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |
| English Heritage | 2006 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24) |

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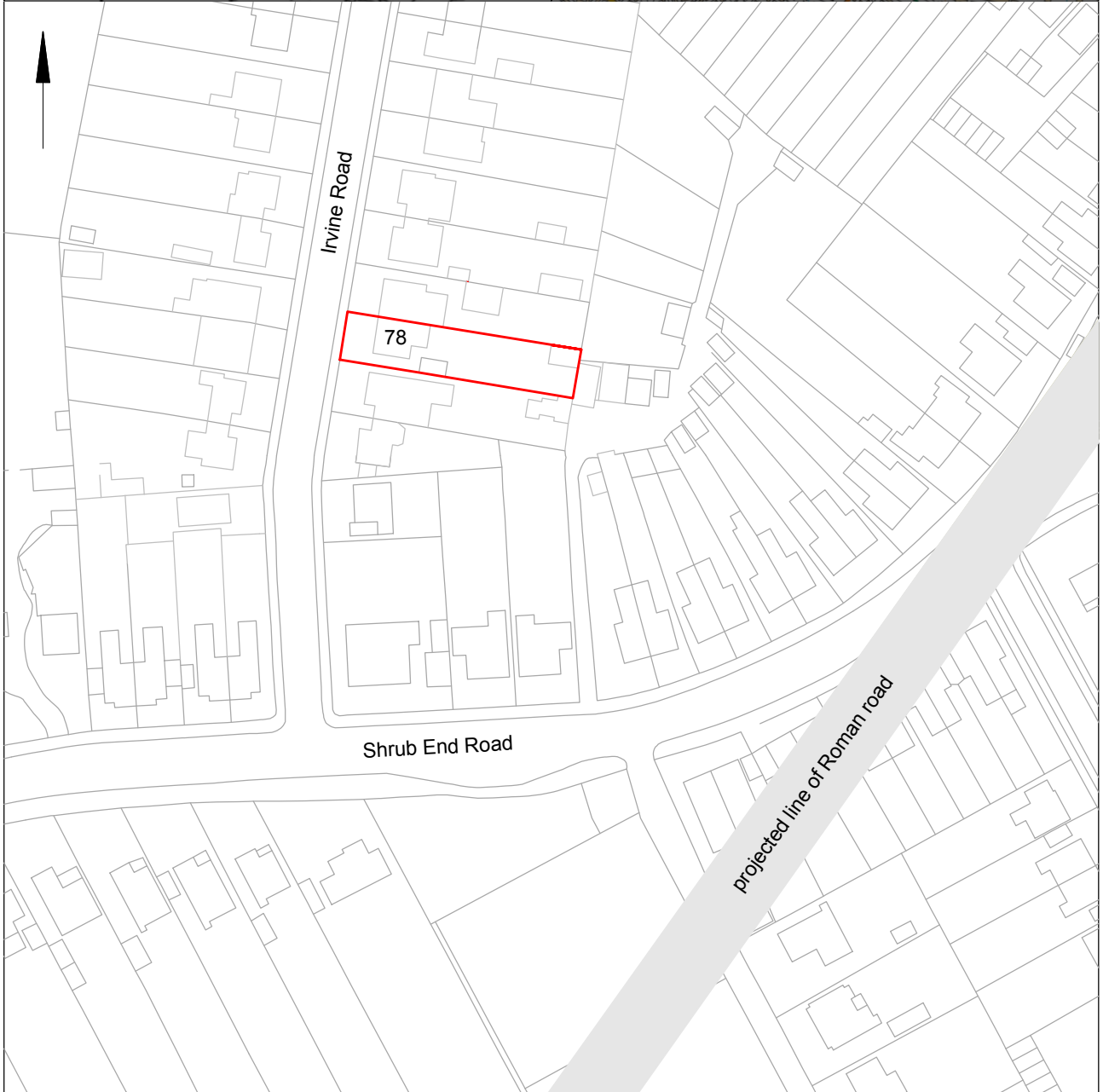
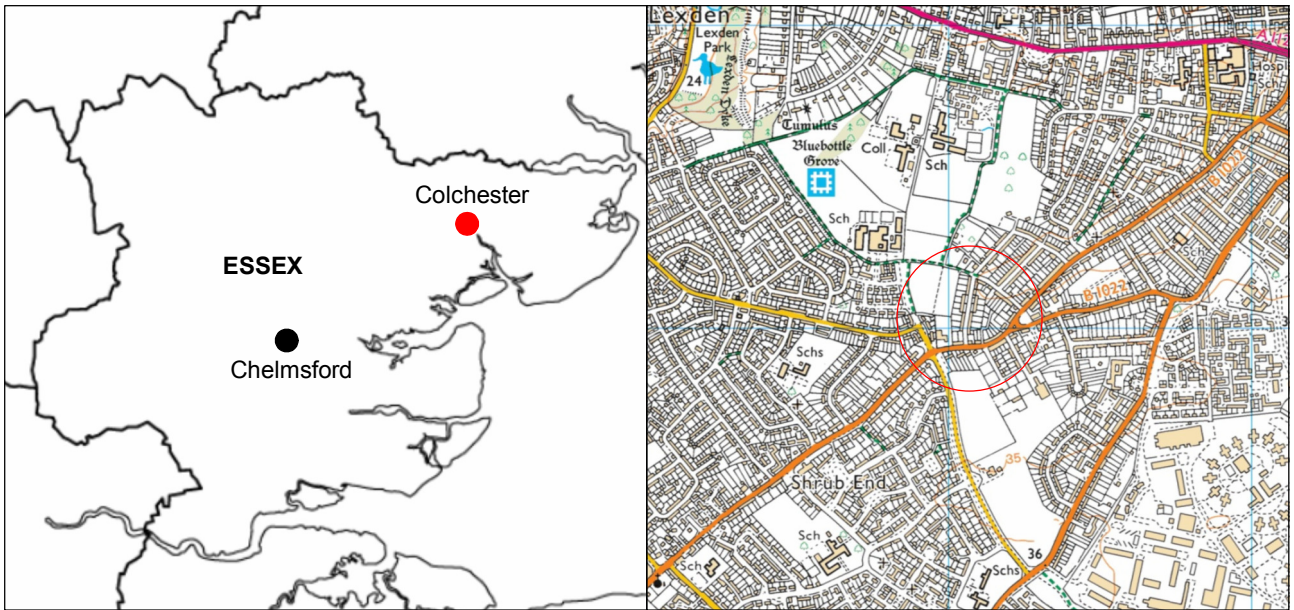
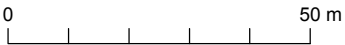


Fig 1 Site location.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-295492

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 78 Irvine Road in advance of a ground floor extension. The development site is located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and south of several Roman cemeteries and a Roman temple. No significant archaeological features were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 19-09-2017 End: 19-09-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/09g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	171882 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.124 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4077 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 78 Irvine Road
Postcode	CO3 3TT
Study area	0.04 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98084 24021 51.878992486264 0.878214175799 51 52 44 N 000 52 41 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.124
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.124
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
------------------	---

Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT: September 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1174
Date 2017
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 loose-leaf ringbound
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>

Entered by Elliott Hicks (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on 4 October 2017

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